

Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-02

INT-08 SCI-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-08 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 XMB-07 DRC-01

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P R 181942Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5963

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMCONSUL HNG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0155

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TD, XL, XM, XF, XE
SUBJECT: ENERGY: TRINIDAD TO ACQUIRE PARTICIPATION IN TEXACO

REF POS 147

FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON PRIME MINISTER'S JANUARY 17
SPEECH (REFTEL):

1. WILLIAMS' ADDRESS CONVEYS A SENSE OF ACTION, MOTION AND COMMITMENT WITH REGARD TO ENERGY-RELATED MATTERS, WITHOUT REALLY COMMITTING THE GOTT TO ANY CONCRETE COURSE OF ACTION. CONTRARY TO PM'S STATEMENT THAT TEXACO HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE GOTT ACQUIRING PARTICIPATION IN TEXACO, GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE TOLD CONGRESSMAN WHALEN THIS MORNING THAT TEXACO HAD MERELY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD TALKS ON THE SUBJECT. CLARKE FORECAST FAIRLY LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO SMALL BUT GROWING GOTT PARTICIPATION IN TEXACO AND EVENTUAL SIMILAR MOVES WITH SHELL AND AMOCO. AUGUSTUS LONG, FORMER TEXACO CHAIRMAN WHO IS ABMIRED BY WILLIAMS, WAS HERE LAST WEEK AND PRESUMABLY DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENT WITH WILLIAMS.

2. THE SPEECH ALSO APPEARS CAREFULLY WORDED TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THIRD WORLD NATIONS, ESPECIALLY ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, ALSO ANNOUNCED IN BAGHDAD ACCORDING TO A REUTERS STORY, IS DOUBTLESS PART OF TRINIDAD'S CAMPAIGN TO REVERSE THE IRAQI VETO OF TRINIDAD'S 1972 BID TO JOIN OPEC. (THE GOTT FOREIGN MINISTRY APPARENTLY JUMPED THE GUN ON THIS ANNOUNCEMENT LAST OCTOBER BY SAYING THAT TRINIDAD'S AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON WOULD ALSO BE ACCREDITED TO IRAQ.) INCLUSION OF THE PRC ON ONE OF THE GOTT'S OIL MISSION SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER THIRD-WORLD GESTURE.

3. THE CONDITIONS ANNOUNCED FOR GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE PETROLEUM AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED GOTT PARTICIPATION IN TEXACO, ARE PROBABLY STEPS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCER (PERHAPS LIBYA, ALTHOUGH PRESS SPECULATION HAS MENTIONED I RAN INSTEAD) WHICH TRINIDAD IS COURTING TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL CRUDE. (WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT A MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCER WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A JOINT GOVERNMENT VENTURE TO BUILD A NEW
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REFINERY IN TRINIDAD.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PRIME MINISTER, PETROLEUM, NATIONALIZATION, SPEECHES, PRICES, PETROLEUM REFINING, INVESTMENTS, STATE ENTERPRISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO00155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740132/aaaabdod.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: POS 147
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <11 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: TRINIDAD TO ACQUIRE PARTICIPATION IN TEXACO
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TD, XL, XM, XF, XE, TEXICO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005